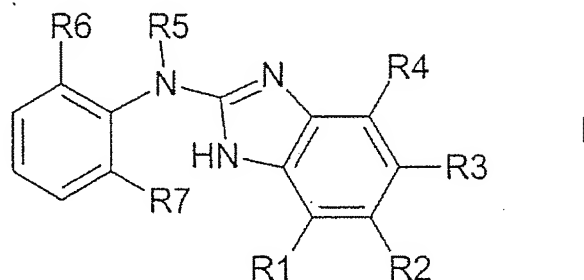


**AMENDMENTS**

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula I



wherein,

R1 and R4 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, Cl, Br, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy wherein, the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy are optionally substituted independently of one another by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 fluorine atoms;

R2 and R3 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, OH, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl, and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkoxy wherein, the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkoxy are optionally substituted independently of one another by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 fluorine atoms;

R5 is independently selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkenyl and C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-cycloalkyl, wherein, the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkenyl and C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-cycloalkyl are optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 fluorine atoms; and

R6 and R7 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, Cl, Br, ~~C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl~~ C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkoxy, wherein, the ~~C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl~~ C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkoxy are optionally substituted independently of one another by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7, 8 ~~or 9~~ fluorine atoms,

provided that R6 and R7 are not ~~simultaneously~~ hydrogen;

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or trifluoroacetic acid salt thereof.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, which is:

(1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)(2,6-dichlorophenyl)methylamine;

(1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)(2,6-dichlorophenyl)ethylamine;

(2,6-dichlorophenyl)(5-fluoro-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)methylamine;

(1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)(2,6-dichlorophenyl)isopropylamine;

allyl(1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)(2,6-dichlorophenyl)amine; or

(1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)cyclopentyl(2,6-dichlorophenyl)amine; or

the pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or trifluoroacetic acid salt thereof.

4. (withdrawn) A method of inhibiting the activity of sodium-proton exchanger of subtype

3 (NH3) comprising

contacting an inhibitory amount of a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 to a patient in need thereof.

5. (withdrawn) A method of treatment or prophylaxis with a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, of claim 1, for a disorder of the respiratory drive, a respiratory disorder, a sleep-related respiratory disorder, sleep apnea, snoring, an acute renal disorder, a chronic renal disorder, an acute renal failure, a chronic renal failure, a disorder of an intestinal function, a disorder of high blood pressure, a disorder of essential hypertension, a disorder of the

central nervous system, a disorder resulting from central nervous system overexcitability, epilepsy and centrally induced convulsions, a disorder of an anxiety state, depressions and psychoses, an ischemic state of the peripheral and central nervous system, a stroke, a disorder of acute and chronic damage to a peripheral organ and limb caused by an ischemic event, a disorder of a peripheral organ and limb caused by a reperfusion event, a disorder of atherosclerosis, a disorder of lipid metabolism, a disorder of thromboses, a disorder of biliary function, a disorder of infestation by ectoparasites, a disorder resulting from endothelial dysfunction, a protozoal disorder, malaria, for the preservation and storage of a transplant for a surgical procedure, for use in a surgical operation and an organ transplant, for the treatment of shock, for the treatment of diabetes and late damage from diabetes, for the treatment of a disease in which cellular proliferation represents a primary or secondary cause, and for maintaining health and prolonging life.

6. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5 wherein, the compound or salt is used in combination with one or more other drugs or active ingredients.
7. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5 wherein, the drug is for the treatment or prophylaxis of a disorder of the respiratory drive and/or of a sleep-related respiratory disorder.
8. (withdrawn) The method of claim 7 wherein, the sleep-related respiratory disorder is sleep apnea.
9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5 wherein, the drug is for the treatment or prophylaxis of snoring.
10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5 wherein, the drug is for the treatment or prophylaxis of an acute renal disorder, a chronic renal disorder, an acute renal failure, or a chronic renal failure.

11. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5 wherein, the drug is for the treatment or prophylaxis of a disorder of an intestinal function.
12. (original) A pharmaceutical composition for human, veterinary or phytoprotective use comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of one or more compounds or a salt according to claim 1.
13. (original) The composition of claim 12 further comprising one or more other pharmacologically active ingredients or drugs.